





هذه من الاصل

# consumer protection group in Jordan?

By Abia Majaj

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

**MAN** — In a rapidly developing country as Jordan, one has fairly easy access to modern conveniences and imports. In spite of the fact that almost anything be found in the country these days (and be bought provided the buyer is willing pay the often exorbitant prices), there is fundamental service that Jordan does provide -- namely, a consumer protection advising agency.

Two determined women been working hard since to establish just such an agency. Mrs. Nancy Madi and Mrs. Janwa Mufleh told the Times that the most difficult part is finding people willing to volunteer their time. The organisation they have been forming. "Many people are interested but no one wants to be a member," Mrs. Madi complained. The idea of a consumer protection organisation originated from Mrs. Madi and Mrs. Mufleh. They found that shops were selling food that had outlived its shelf life. "We even found bugs in the baby cereals," Mrs. Madi said. Mrs. Madi, who had arrived in Jordan from the United States, immediately was concerned that many imported foodstuffs, even if they were of high quality, might have lost all their nutritional value. Two concerned women to Gerber and General to inquire after their export procedures. "They gave us the information," Mrs. Madi said, "but what she and Mrs. Mufleh primarily wanted to do at this stage, was an explanatory leaflet as well as a manual to be printed, some-

where on the labels of all foodstuffs imported into Jordan. After discovering that they had approached the problem from the wrong end, they drew up a petition demanding that all foods have an expiry as well as production date clearly indicated on the label. "We collected hundreds of signatures," Mrs. Madi said. And the petition paid off -- "If you look, you'll see that most items do have the expiry date somewhere on the label," Mrs. Mufleh added. Once the signatures were collected, the next step was spot-checking supermarkets and buying up food that had obviously gone bad, which the women did entirely out of their own pockets. Then, with petition and spoiled food samples in hand, the ladies met with Mr. Marwan Al Qasem, then the minister of supply, as well as with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, who "encouraged the idea," they said. But despite the encouragement and moral support they received, Mrs. Madi and Mrs. Mufleh still could not formally set up a consumer protection organisation as such. They were referred to Mrs. In'am Mufil, the minister of social development, who told them that they would have to register their

organisation: but before that could be done, they had to have a constitution. However, as Mrs. Madi put it, "We can't draw up a constitution if there are no members" -- referring to the problem of getting interested people to take an active, rather than a passive, part in the organisation. The primary goal of a consumer protection service is education, Mrs. Madi said, which would take place via the newspapers, pamphlets, or "any media available" -- and it would extend beyond foodstuffs. "For example," Mrs. Mufleh said, "if you buy a house, you have no guarantee against anything. All

the responsibility falls on the buyer's head." Mrs. Madi continued, "We'd like to somehow make a warranty work here. Food is not the only concern of a consumer protection organisation. The whole (Middle East) area must be made aware of the rights of the consumer. But if all we accomplish is effective consumer education, that's enough. At least people will be aware of the situation." Once the organisation has been registered and is official, the next step, after establishing some mode of consumer education, would be to try to get legislation passed which would make mandatory the

presence of both manufacture and expiration dates on all imported foodstuffs. (Many goods do have the expiry dates on them, but it has not yet been made part of the law.) In the third place Mrs. Madi and Mrs. Mufleh hope to establish an office. Part of this office would be especially reserved for a call-in service, whereby consumers could air complaints about the services they are -- or aren't -- receiving. Being as yet purely hypothetical, Mrs. Madi said, the manner in which such a service would be handled would first entail consultation with their lawyers. "If there is nothing in the law regarding the consumer's complaint, we

would try and mediate," she said. "I can't say anything definite, because we haven't formed the organisation yet. But it has to be independent." However, an office entails a full-time staff of five or six; and this staff needs to be paid. Asked how this problem would be approached, Mrs. Madi replied that the salaries for the core staff would probably come from a membership drive (membership probably being "about JD 1 or 2 a year"), and from contributions. "But mainly we need volunteers. So many people are really interested, but they aren't willing to work," she said.

## NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

**SEOUL, March 31 (AP)** — Jordan's communications minister, Dr. Mohammad 'Addouh Al Zaben, left today after a five-day visit at the invitation of his South Korean counterpart. While here, Dr. Zaben met with Foreign President Chun Doo-Hwan, and conferred with Communications Minister Choi Kwang-Soo on matters of bilateral interest. He also inspected Korean communications facilities and operations in and near the capital. He was accompanied by Mr. Mohammad Shabed Ismail, director general of the Telecommunications Corporation.

**SOUTH SHUNEH, March 31 (Petra)** — The public safety committee here today ordered the closure of several stores after they were found to have violated sanitary regulations. The order was issued following inspection visits to stores, bakeries and cafes in the Shuneh area.

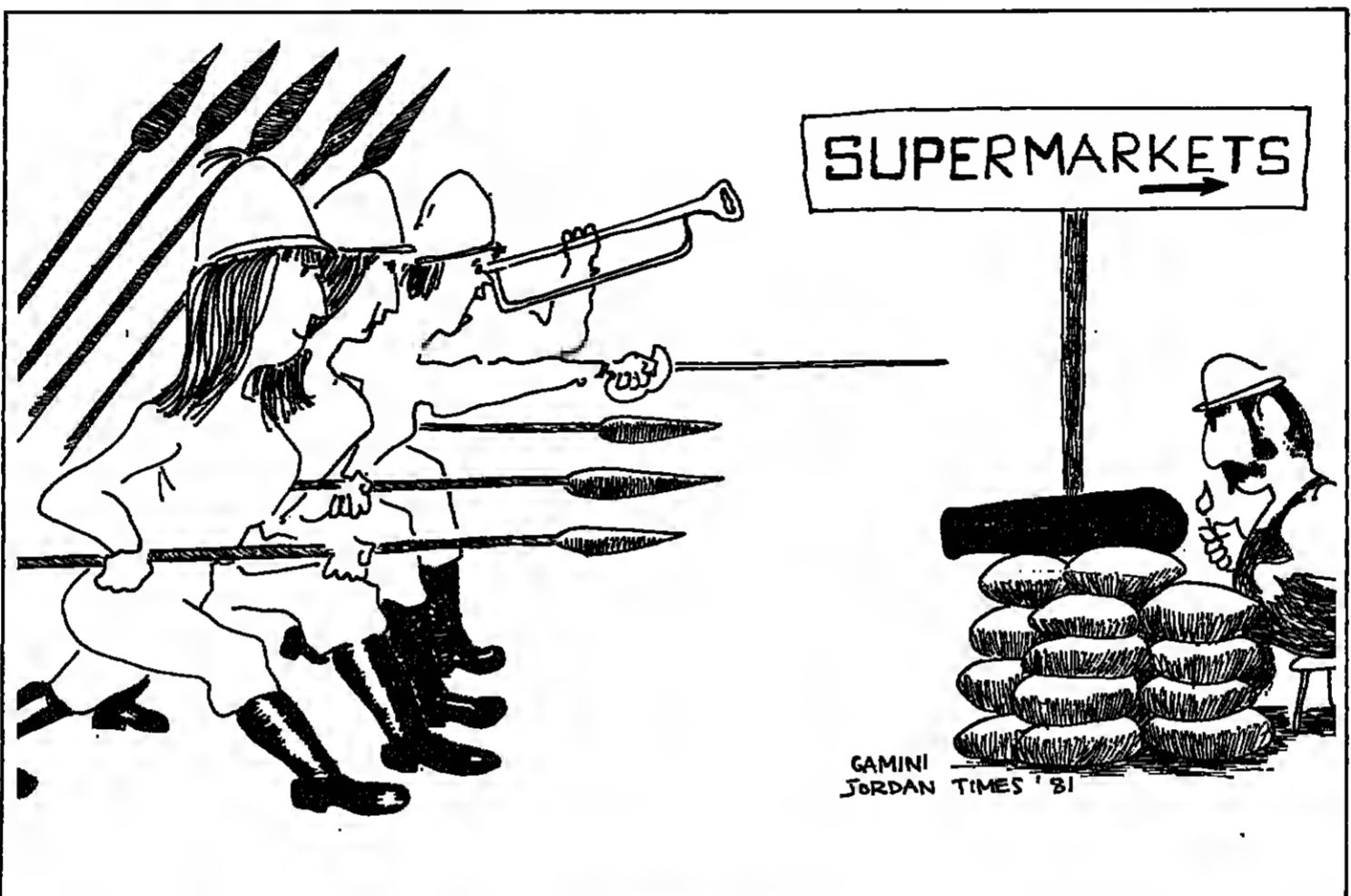
**JERASH, March 31 (Petra)** — The Directorate of Social Development in Jerash District will soon conduct a study on the condition of women in the villages of the district. The study aims at identifying the women's needs prior to introducing social and rehabilitation programmes to enable rural women to take an active role in developing the country, a directorate spokesman said. He said the study will be carried out in cooperation with the Princess Rahmeh Community Centre in 'Allan.

**AMMAN, March 31 (JT)** — Revenues collected by the Income Tax Department in the first two months of this year amounted to JD 6.5 million, compared to JD 4.27 million in the same period of 1980, an income tax department spokesman said. He attributed the increase in the revenues to the improvement in the collection system, which increased the number of taxpayers from 30,000 in 1978 to 74,000 at the beginning of 1981.

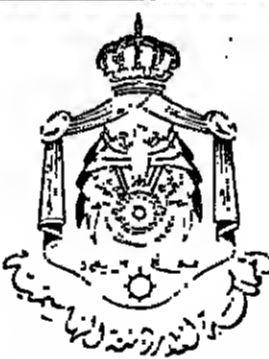
**AMMAN, March 31 (Petra)** — The British Red Arrows aerobatic team left Amman today at the end of a three-day visit to Jordan. During the visit the team presented an aerobatic display on Sunday over Amman airport, and met with His Majesty King Hussein and Her Majesty Queen Noor. King Hussein presented the team's head pilot, Sdn. Ldr. Brian Hoskins, with an award in appreciation of his team's performance. The Red Arrows, who visited Jordan in the course of a Middle East tour, will perform in Cyprus and Greece before returning to Britain.

**KARAK, March 31 (Petra)** — Farmers and landowners in the southern Jordan Valley region will get reprieves on their debts to the Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC), because they suffered considerable losses due to damage done to their crops this season. Dr. Sami Sunna, ACC director general, has announced. Speaking at a seminar attended by farmers and ACC officials here, Dr. Sunna said that certain viruses had caused the damage to the agricultural crops. The ACC will be willing to consider farmers' requests for loans to plant their lands for the next season, he said.

**AMMAN, March 31 (Petra)** — The University of Jordan will take part in the second conference on teaching English as a foreign language, which will be held in Athens on April 10. Dr. Eid 'Duhayyat and Dr. Mohammad Asfour from the English department will represent Jordan at the three-day conference. They will submit a research paper on teaching problems to the conference, a university source said.



## JORDAN T.V. PROGRAMME DEP.



## مؤسسة التلفزيون دائرة البرامج

PROGRAMME CYCLE ON CHANNEL 6  
1/4/1981 - 1/7/1981

### JORDAN TELEVISION FOREIGN PROGRAMME JTV 6

	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	FRENCH PROGRAMME						
	NEWS IN FRENCH						
	NEWS IN HEBREW						
	Sport Magazine	Educational	EVA 2000	Varieties	Magazine 0-1	Varieties	R S P B
	NEWS IN ARABIC						
:00	Mork and Mindy	A Sharp intake of Breath	Benson	House Calls	Butterflies and mother makes five	The Muppet Show	Barney Miller
:30	Documentary	The Other Arf	Spoils of the War	Lady Killers	Hawaii Five-O	Feather and Father	Family
:00	Sat. Variety Show	Play of the Week		Cottage to let			
	NEWS IN ENGLISH						
:00	Feature Film	The Love Boat	Best Seller	Documentary	Fantasy Island	Movie of the Week	Magnum
:05	Play of the month						
	NEWS SUMMARY IN ARABIC						
:15	Cont. Feature or Play		Cont. Best Seller	Dallas		Cont. Movie of the Week	
:30							

**The Other Arf, Sunday at 8:30:** A new comedy programme: rich man meets working girl.

**House Calls Tuesday at 8:30:** The follies and foibles of staff and doctors in a great metropolitan hospital.

**Butterflies, Wednesday at 8:30:** Another new comedy series: What can a mother do between her rigid husband and two teenage sons?

**Lady Killers, Tuesday at 7:** A seven-part programme, each part narrating a story of women's crime. The circumstances in each case are rather peculiar...

**Cottage to Let, Tuesday at 9:30:** A six-part programme about the events in a shanty near the sea. A woman is murdered in mysterious circumstances; a pensioner shares the cottage with his daughter--strange, since she is already married...

**Family, Friday at 9:** A 13-part American programme about the life of a lawyer with his wife and two children.

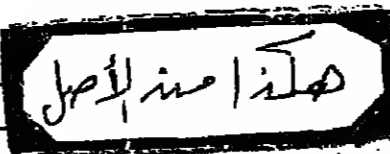
**Fantasy, Wednesday at 10:15:** You may achieve your fondest dream by going to the island of fantasy... but what will you do then?

**Magnum, Friday at 10:15:** A new 13-part programme about events in the Hawaiian island of Magnum.









FEATURES

West African forest zone: A yam civilisation

In the Ivory Coast to the Gulf of Guinea, no plant has a richer social and cultural heritage than the yam. In the forest zone, this tuber is the only crop requiring ceremonies for its planting. It is so closely intertwined into the life of the people of the West African forest zone that a botanist christened this first tuber "yam civilization".

number of African governments. Its production is extremely costly, and the returns are meagre. In Cameroon, for example, it costs over 230,000 CFA francs (\$1,150) to plant a hectare of yams, and the grower often has to keep a third of his crop for seed! It is easy to understand the agricultural ministries' reluctance to support such a costly crop, particularly as it requires five or six times as much work as cassava or sweet potatoes. For African agricultural planners, there was no doubt that the yam was doomed to disappear, giving way to other more practical tubers, to which it was only logical to assign production priorities. But they underestimated the attachment of millions of people for whom yams are the most prestigious of foods. Although it was looked down upon by progressive governments, yam production remained constant. The authorities were forced to acknowledge the error of their ways, and include the enormous tuber — the underground part of

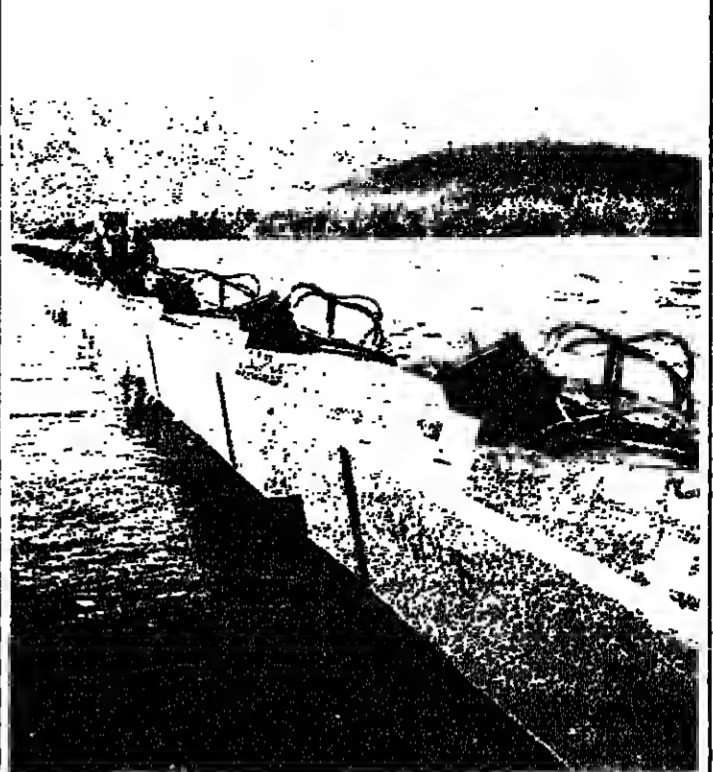
which may weigh as much as 10 kilograms — in their national agricultural programmes. Although it produces only about a million tons annually, compared to neighbouring Nigeria's twelve million tons, Cameroon included the yam in its root crop improvement plan. Mr. Simon Ngale Lyonga, an agronomist at the Agronomic Research Institute's Elona station, at the foot of Mount Cameroon, took charge of the Cameroonian yam programme. "From 1959 to 1976, I was up to my ears in yams," he says. "In fact, the government had little choice: One area of Cameroon bordering in eastern Nigeria alone imported 4250 tons of yams in 1965; imports for the country as a whole totalled at least four times that amount." Under the national nut and tuber crop improvement programme, Cameroonian authorities plan to increase yam production from the 400,000 tons harvested in 1975-1976, to 1.3 million tons

in 1980-1981 — an annual increase of nearly 20 per cent. Mr. Lyonga, coordinator of the programme, says that it is still too early to tell whether this objective is being met, but he estimates that even though the country still imports some yams, it exports just as many, particularly to Gabon. However, the obstacles to be overcome before cultivation can be profitable are such that the Cameroonians speak of the need to "re-design" the yam. The aerial part of the plant is a vine that must be supported by a stake to obtain an acceptable yield. The demand for firewood, however, has drastically reduced the wood available and yams require some 2500 stakes per hectare! Moreover, as the tubers of some varieties grow nearly a metre below ground, harvesting involves major excavations and precludes mechanisation — short of bulldozers. Finally, enormous quantities of seed are required: Growers must plant about 10,000 tuber pieces

weighing 375 to 500 grammes each, or up to five tons of seed per hectare. All that for a yield of 15 to 50 tons. It is going to take time to "re-design" the yam. With the yam growers in mind, Mr. Lyonga and his team wanted to tackle the most pressing needs first and come up with solutions or strategies that could be applied immediately. First they had to find the highest-yielding varieties. With assistance from Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC) 95 indigenous varieties were collected throughout Cameroon, and tested along with 19 other varieties received from the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) in Ibadan, Nigeria. Analyses confirmed the relatively high protein content of the yam tuber, particularly of the species, *Dioscorea Dumetorum* which contains up to 11 per cent protein. In addition, yields acceptable crops even without staking, and the tubers do not burrow quite as deeply into the ground. Fortunately, they are now able to induce flowering systematically at such places as IITA, where many promising hybrids have been produced. Even if an acceptable yam is developed for mass production, small farmers will continue to plant the traditional varieties required by customs that have ensured this extremely demanding crop a prominent place through the ages. (IDRC)

modern agricultural research in Cameroon is now devoting his efforts to setting up an improved seed distribution network and to producing data sheets on cultivation practices. Mr. Lyonga is particularly proud of the fact that, in addition to the department of agriculture's seed multiplication stations, more and more growers are devoting their energies to the production of seed material. Researchers and farmers are working together, reinforcing each other's efforts. "Developing ideal varieties is beyond the means of the national programmes," states Mr. Lyonga. "It is up to the international centres to produce a yam that will stand on its own, resist disease, produce a globular tuber near the soil surface, and make better use of solar energy." Thousands of crossbreeding attempts will have to be made before obtaining varieties that lend themselves to mass production. Having switched from sexual to vegetative reproduction centuries ago, the yam does not bloom.

Power from ever rolling sea



A 1/10 scale version of the Oscillating Vane — commonly known as the Floating Duck — seen on Loch Ness in Scotland, where it is currently being tested by a team of wave power researchers from Lancaster Polytechnic. The string of "ducks" have been subjected to the rigours of a winter on Loch Ness where wave patterns are similar to those found in the North Atlantic — the most suitable spot for a full scale version. Power is generated from the relative motion of the ducks as they oscillate about a central spine with the action of the waves. This relative motion can be converted into a primary energy output by a number of mechanical, electrical or hydraulic systems that will absorb or "damp" the relative motion.



A spherical solar panel

Mr. S. Djelouah, managing director of the Sorelec company, situated in the suburbs of Orleans, is a real "Christopher Columbus" of solar energy. Just like the famous navigator, who was the first to believe and to prove that the Earth was round, he is the first today to say — and to prove — that a solar panel doesn't need to be flat, it can just as well be spherical. He has demonstrated once again that the simplest ideas are often the best. For the advantage of a spherical solar captor is that it is always directly under the sun's rays. This is not true for flat panels, unless they possess girdling mechanisms, which makes them more expensive at the outset. The spherical solar captor invented by Mr. Djelouah is in the shape of a globe with black facets all round, standing on a single pedestal. It's a kind of "lamp-stand" captor which can be placed almost anywhere without taking up too much room: On a balcony, a terrace or in the garden. The roof doesn't need to be reconstructed, as is necessary for flat solar panels. Attached to the house's heating and water-distribution systems, it provides warm water for washing and for heating by day and, if necessary, cold water for air-conditioning by night. Another big advantage of this invention is that the hot-water reservoir is inside the spherical captor itself. This saves space. The capacity of this reservoir varies according to the different models.

**JUMBLE** THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME  
by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

RODUG  
NAGGI  
PINELP  
DRAISH

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: WEARY SQUAB GENIUS FACING  
Answer: They need drivers—SCREWS

**THE BETTER HALF** By Vinson

"Having his picture on the penny and \$5 bill must have been an advantage when Abe was running for president."

**anuts**

HEY, CHUCK, HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP OUT MY TEAM THIS YEAR?  
YOU MEAN YOU WANT ME TO PITCH?  
NO, WE'RE TRYING TO RAISE A LITTLE MONEY, AND WE NEED SOMEONE TO SELL POPCORN...  
THAT WAS WEIRD, BIG BROTHER... I COULD HEAR YOUR FACE FALL CLEAR OUT IN THE OTHER ROOM!

**dy Capp**

DOMIN' OUT TO PLAY WITH US, MISTER CAPP?  
THE MINUTE I GET MY HEAD DOWN, I GUESS IT'S A COMPLIMENT THAT THE NEIGHBOURHOOD KIDS SHOULD WANT TO BE PALLY WITH A BLOKE OF MY AGE, EH, PET?  
DUNNO WHAT IT IS ABOUT ME  
I DO — 'EIS JUVENILE AND DELINQUENT

**tt 'n' Jeff**

JUDGE, I LOVE TWO WOMEN. I'D LIKE TO MARRY BOTH OF THEM!  
BUT THAT'S BIGAMY.  
THAT'S BIG OF ME!  
FURTHERMORE HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT TWO WIVES? I'M A JUDGE AND I COULDN'T —  
YES -- BUT DON'T FORGET -- YOU DON'T COLLECT ANY TIPS!  
—OR DO YOU?

**GOREN BRIDGE**

BY CHARLES H. GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF  
1980 by Chicago Tribune

Both vulnerable, South deals.

**NORTH**  
♦ 105  
♠ J87  
♥ AK 104  
♣ 6432

**WEST**  
♦ J986  
♠ Q4  
♥ Q2  
♣ K Q J87

**EAST**  
♦ K4  
♠ K 1096  
♥ J986  
♣ A 109

**SOUTH**  
♦ AK732  
♠ A532  
♥ 753  
♣ 5

The hiding:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass  
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass  
Pass Pass  
Opening lead: King of ♣.

The editor and publisher of Bridge World magazine, the world's most prestigious bridge publication, is U.S. internationalist Edgar Kaplan. Here's a hand from a recent team game at the magazine's headquarters. Observe North's false preference to two spades. That tactic is common for your first response when you have a good hand, since it gives partner an opportunity to bid again with extra values. Change North's king of diamonds to the jack, and he would have passed two hearts. West led the king of clubs, and declarer could count only five fast tricks. If both major suits broke 3-3, there would be eight tricks, but that was greatly against the odds. Normally, you increase your number of trump tricks by ruffing losers in dummy, but Kaplan found a way to reverse this procedure. West continued with a second club. On the first two tricks East produced the ten and nine of clubs, so Kaplan decided that West probably had length in the suit. The rest was just a simple exercise in timing. Declarer ruffed the second club, cashed the ace and king of trumps and crossed to dummy with the king of diamonds. A club ruff, back to dummy with the ace of diamonds and another club ruff allowed declarer to single in all his low trumps. Five trump tricks, the two red aces and the king of diamonds brought declarer's total to eight tricks. Note that if West does not lead a second club, declarer must go down. He is an entry short to ruff three clubs, so he can come to no more than seven tricks. Also note that declarer will fail if he does not cash the high trumps before embarking on ruffing the clubs — East will be able to ruff the fourth club with the queen. Bridge World magazine is based in New York at 39 W. 94th St. This monthly magazine makes an attractive Christmas gift, and right now you can do yourself a favor — for two subscriptions (only \$16 annually, each), you receive a free copy of a bridge classic: "Goren on Play and Defense."

**THE Daily Crossword** by Dorothea E. Shipp

ACROSS  
1 Tool machine  
6 Syrian bread  
10 Political family  
14 New York city  
15 Dutch cheese  
16 Author Wiesel  
17 Prevant  
18 Angry  
19 Russian villages  
20 Most sodden  
22 Metrical foot  
24 Perfume component

26 Leanings  
27 Philippine knife  
30 Father-and-son Roman generals  
33 Maine college town  
35 Repetition  
39 Marmara or Okhotsk  
40 Dangar color  
42 Pulpit offering: abbr.

43 Eggs  
44 Able  
47 Fond parent  
49 Willing to give way  
51 Playground

52 Collect  
55 Viscous mud  
57 Harasses  
60 Most level  
64 Seed covering  
65 Goldie  
67 Ross  
68 Camival attraction  
69 Red one  
70 Against a thing  
71 Holy woman: abbr.  
72 Work on a lawn  
73 Moonhead

23 On ship  
25 Command to a dog  
27 Pear  
28 Mountain: comb. form.  
29 Rich soil  
31 Famine's companion  
32 Exasperate  
34 Threatening words  
36 Jot  
37 British stool  
38 British pigeon  
41 Airport abbr.  
45 Mortars' complements  
46 Late times: abbr.  
48 Debut  
50 104  
52 Armadillos  
53 Worth  
54 Digression  
56 Radio and TV  
58 Korean president, once  
59 Camelian  
61 Deserve  
62 Snick's sidekick  
63 Woolen caps  
66 Peruke

Saturday's Puzzle Solved:

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